

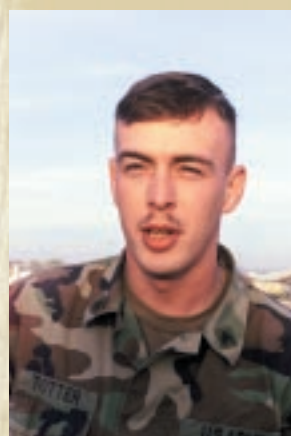
*Pfc. Casey Ray Panique
Company A, 1st Battalion,
37th Armored Regiment,
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo*

"The first thing I want to do is go home [to Montana] and eat Christmas dinner with my family, then sit and talk with them. It has been two years since I was home."



*Spc. Angela Crockett
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
1st Brigade, Camp Bondsteel,
Kosovo*

"...To spend lots of quality time with my children. To make up for lost time."



*Sgt. John D. Trotter
Company B, 1st Battalion,
36th Infantry Regiment,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo*

"Relax, unwind and have a good time with my friends enjoying the sights in Europe that I haven't seen."

Man on the street

What are you going to do when you get home from Kosovo ?

"Relax and power-down. [Spend some] family time in the states."



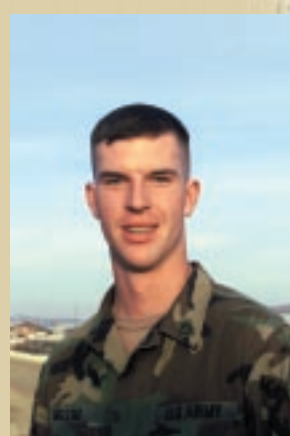
*Sgt. First Class William K. Jordan
Headquarters and Headquarters
Company, 1st Battalion,
37th Armored Regiment,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo*



*Spc. Thomas F. Smith
Company C, 1st Battalion,
36th Infantry Regiment,
Outpost Terminator, Kosovo*

"After recovery and reintegration into garrison living, I will be going to Connecticut for a Christmas family reunion."

"To go skiing and snowboarding, and enjoy myself with my girlfriend and her friends, and just to take a load off."



*Pfc. Andrew J. Gigstead
Company B, 1st Battalion,
36th Infantry Regiment,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo*

1AD joins NATO forces in

ARRCADE Fusion

Story by

Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni and
Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek
1st Armored Division PAO

WILDFLECKEN, Germany—More than 6,300 troops participated in the exercise. Food service specialists served more than 228,000 meals, including 52,000 eggs, 13,000 loaves of bread and 2,800 chickens. Soldiers used more than 200,000 liters of fuel. Signal soldiers laid out more than eight kilometers of communication cable.

While it is difficult to truly comprehend the magnitude of ARRCAD Fusion 2000 without examining the immense resources involved in the execution of the exercise, the immensity can be brought into perspective when considering 17 of 19 NATO nations participated in ARRCAD Fusion 2000 held October 9-27, the first exercise of its magnitude since 1998.

The exercise scenario was based on a large-scale regional crisis caused by aggression against a Partnership-for-Peace nation that threatens Europe's long-term peace, security and stability. Twenty-one units, including 309 soldiers from the 1st Armored Division participated in the exercise, interacting with counterparts from throughout Europe.

"ARRCAD Fusion enabled the 17 involved nations to use their combined armed forces to train for combat realistically," said Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Houston of G-3 Training. "This exercise was unique in that it is not that often that the soldiers get the opportunity to work with 17 different nations, fight a war together."

"I learned about how everything operates during a large-scale war situation," said Pfc. Christopher Milburn, of HHC, 1AD. "Our foreign counterparts



American and Hungarian soldiers crowd around a planning table to fine tune warfighting operations during ARRCAD Fusion 2000

were very helpful. It was interesting to talk to them and find out what their military is like."

The exercise was conducted in close partnership with the German Army's Battle Exercises Simulation Center. It was a computer-aided exercise designed to test headquarters staffs rather than the troops on the ground, according to ARRC Public Affairs.

"The purpose of the exercise was to establish and maintain the structure of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and get units from different nations used to working with each other," said Capt. Matthew Jessop of G-3. "Working with other nations has been enlightening in that we got to see how other countries' militaries work. Working with their liaisons, we could see problems that could arise while participating in this exercise."

While the exercise was a new and different experience for a lot of those who participated it did bring together some familiar allies.

"It really showed that we had worked with the [Hungarian] 25th Mechanized Brigade," said Lt. Col. Jay F. Rouse, 3rd Brigade's executive officer. "In between

the last exercise in 1998 and this one, we established a lot of quality standard operating procedures and a common understanding on how we fight the enemy."

"Working with the Americans was a lot easier than working with soldiers from some of the other countries because we worked together before," said 1st Lt. Gabor Szentes, a liaison officer for the Hungarian 25th Mechanized Brigade. "It was very similar to the last exercise which was helpful to us."

During ARRCAD Fusion 2000, 1,200 exercise controllers simulated the movement of almost 152,000 troops and over 56,200 vehicles and major pieces of equipment. But while the tactical aspects of the exercise were critical, the real purpose of the exercise was to establish and improve on the lines of communication between the NATO nations, according to Rouse.

"Executing through training exercise is nothing new for the 1AD," said Rouse. "What separated this one from the others is the interaction that we had with all of these different nations. It was interesting learning about the other nations' procedures and tactics. We learned that we have more in common than we have differences."